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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,428	12/28/2000	Isao Yagasaki	826.1657	5687
21171	7590	04/21/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			SHERKAT, AREZOO	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2131		

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/749,428	YAGASAKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Arezoo Sherkat	2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 5 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to Applicant's amendment received on February 3, 2006. Claim 5 has been amended. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are cancelled. Claims 17-20 have been added.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed February 3, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the instant application "determines whether services are available to the user by sending an inquiry to a certificate authority such as an authentication institution. As a result, a terminal of the user is provided with layout information to generate a display corresponding to service information including portions covering all the services found to be available in accordance with the inquiry" (Remarks, page 4).

Examiner responds that Howard discloses that the authentication server updates or creates a cookie that contains the date and time, and a list of all sites or web servers visited by the user since the last log out from the authentication server (col. 7, lines 10-35).

Applicant argues that Howard does not teach or suggest, "receiving service information of available services" and "providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services" (Remarks, page 5).

Examiner responds that Howard discloses, "The authentication server also communicates the user profile information to the affiliate server (step 214) through the client computer system. In a particular embodiment of the invention, the user of the client computer system can specify, during the registration process what types of profile information should be provided to various types of web servers. For example, a user may specify that all commerce-related web servers should receive the user's mailing address, but restrict the mailing address from all other types of web sites. After receiving the user's profile information, the affiliate server generates a personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browser (step 216). Additionally, the affiliate server copies one or more cookies to the client computer system which include information indicating that the user of the client computer system has been authenticated and indicating the period of time during which the authentication is valid " (col. 7, lines 44-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 5 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,505 and Howard hereinafter).

5. Regarding claim 5, Howard discloses a service unit connectable to a certificating unit and at least one terminal unit, said service unit comprising:

a transmitting device transmitting common certificate information in common with a plurality of services, when the terminal unit of a user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services, to the certificating unit which manages the common certificate information corresponding to service information of available services that the user can access, without requiring identification information or password information issued by the services (col. 5, lines 44-63 and col. 8, lines 38-44);

a service utilizing device receiving the service information of the available services from the certificating unit and providing the terminal unit of the user with layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service

information of the available services received from the certificating unit (col. 7, lines 12-66); and

a storing device storing the common certificate information and the identiscation information and the password information for the particular service (col. 3, lines 34-61).

6. Regarding claim 17, Howard discloses a system for certificating services, comprising:

a service utilizing device receiving service information of available services and providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common certificate information, and a user terminal receiving the layout data and displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service (col. 7, lines 12-66 and col. 8, lines 1-44).

7. Regarding claim 18, Howard discloses a computer readable storage medium having a program recorded therein to cause a computer to execute operations, said operations comprising:

transmitting service information of available services, and in response, providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common cedificate information (col. 5, lines 44-63 and col. 8, lines 38-44); and

receiving the layout data and displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service (col. 7, lines 12-66 and col. 8, lines 1-44).

8. Regarding claim 19, Howard discloses a method of certifying services offered by multiple providers, comprising:

determining whether any one of the services of the multiple providers are available to a user by sending an inquiry including a common certificate to a certifying authority (col. 7, lines 10-35); and

providing layout data defining display of service information of a first available service to a terminal of the user based on a result of the inquiry, where the layout data is displayed in a single display region and includes service information of a second available service determined to be available based on the result of the inquiry (col. 7, lines 44-67).

9. Regarding claim 20, Howard discloses a method of certifying services, comprising:

enabling access to a first service server (i.e., authentication server), generating layout information required for displaying information of a second service server (i.e., a particular affiliate server) in a display region displaying service information of the first service server (col. 4, lines 5-67 and col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-22), and

displaying the generated layout information via a user terminal (col. 6, lines 38-67 and col. 7, lines 1-66).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arezoo Sherkat whose telephone number is (571) 272-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A.S.


A. Shukla
Patent Examiner
Group 2131
April 17, 2006


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER